***ROMEO AND JULIET* BALCONY SCENE**

**GROUP WORK ASSIGNMENT**

Working in groups of 3, we will explore Act II Scene 2 of Shakespeare’s *Romeo and Juliet*. This scene is more commonly referred to as the famous “Balcony Scene.” In previous scenes which take place earlier the same evening as this scene, Romeo and Juliet have met. By the end of this scene, they are already planning their marriage – this progression from first acquaintance to engagement happens unusually quickly, even for Shakespeare’s time.

In our groups, we will examine the Balcony Scene in four sections. Use the space provided to record notes from your discussion:

**GROUPS 1 AND 5** will examine Lines 1-49 (the opening scene up to the point where Romeo makes his presence known to Juliet when he says, “I take thee at thy word”) and discuss the following questions:

1. What is Romeo doing in his first soliloquy?
2. What does Juliet reveal about herself in her soliloquy?
3. Has Romeo taken unfair advantage of Juliet by not announcing his presence sooner?

**GROUPS 2 AND 6** will examine Lines 50-149 (the scene from Romeo’s revelation of his presence to the Nurse’s first call) and discuss the following questions:

1. Why is Juliet embarrassed?
2. Romeo tends to get carried away by his own poetic instincts with his “Lady, by yonder blessed moon I vow/That tips with silver all these fruit-tree tops –.” How does Juliet react?

**GROUPS 3 AND 7** will examine Lines 150-154 (the scene from the Nurse’s first call through Juliet’s, “A thousand times good night”) and discuss the following questions:

1. Who proposes to whom?
2. Why doesn’t the conversation go very far in this section?

**GROUPS 4 AND 8** will examine Lines 155-185 (the scene from Romeo’s “A thousand times the worse” to the end of the scene) and discuss the following questions:

1. What concrete plans do Romeo and Juliet make?

After these small group discussions, you will pair up with the other group studying the same lines as you. One member of your group should be prepared to discuss your responses to the questions with the other group. In this discussion, you should account for any similarities or differences in your responses. You may record notes from your discussion in the box below. ***EACH STUDENT SHOULD BE PREPARED TO SHARE A SUMMARY OF YOUR DISCUSSION WITH THE CLASS, AS YOU WILL BE CALLED ON AT RANDOM TO DO SO!***